

Assemblymember Christine Kehoe Brings You News

December 13, 2002

San Diegans join me at Swearing in Ceremonies

A big thanks to the more than forty San Diegans who traveled to Sacramento last Monday to join me as I was sworn in as the Member of the California State Assembly representing the 76th District. Among the San Diegans who made the trek to the Golden State's Capitol was the Honorable Reverend Reginald L. Gary, from San Diego's New Creation Church, who opened the swearing in ceremonies with a prayer.

There are 32 new Members of California's Assembly in 2003-04. All new and returning Members were sworn in last week. We look forward to a year of bi-partisan cooperation on a variety of issues including the State Budget, the environment, local programs, and more.

Kehoe Sworn in as Speaker Pro Tempore of the Assembly

After being sworn into my second term as an Assemblymember, I took the oath of office to become the second woman to serve as Speaker Pro Tempore of the Assembly and the first person from San Diego to hold this leadership role in more than 100 years -- since Nestor A. Young in 1891.

I am honored that Speaker Wesson has asked me to take on the duties and responsibilities of Speaker pro Tempore. I look forward to presiding over the Assembly sessions, and to continue to work on legislation that is important to San Diegans.

For Assembly related information -- including news, the legislative calendar and bill information -- go to [http://assemblyweb/ Assembly+News/ News.htm](http://assemblyweb/Assembly+News/News.htm).

Does Redistricting Affect You?

The redistricting of California took effect December 2, 2002.. By law, the state's boundaries for districts of lawmakers must be redrawn every 10 years to reflect changes in the State's population. Redistricting established new boundaries for election and constituent districts of Congress, the State Senate, and the State Assembly. While I will continue to represent the 76th district, some of the new communities in the district include parts of downtown, Ocean Beach, Mission Hills, Pacific Beach, Point Loma, and Mission Beach.

To find out more about the boundaries of the 76th Assembly District and other districts you can go to <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/default.asp>, and click on "Find My District" in the left navigation.

To view a comprehensive listing of your elected representatives, go the Registrar of Voters website at www.sdvote.com, and click on "Find Your Elected Representatives" link located in the middle section of the page.

State Budget Crisis Continues

Despite predictions of recovery, the national economy remains sluggish and California's revenues have yet to rebound. As a result, several states are faced with challenging budget shortfalls. California is among those states. Therefore, the Legislature returned to the Capitol on Monday to review Governor Davis' proposal.

The challenge we face is bigger than any one person or any one party. It's going to take all of us working together to solve this problem. Californians understand that this budget gap can only be bridged with a balanced approach.

For more information on the Governor's proposal go to the Department of Finance's section of the State's website, at [http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/BUD DOCS/Bud link.htm](http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/BUD_DOCS/Bud_link.htm).

Benefits for Domestic Partners

On December 2nd I introduced AB 17, which will prohibit the State from contracting with vendors or contractors that fail to provide equal benefits to domestic partner employees as compared to benefits provided to their married employees.

Some of the largest companies in the world have recognized the needs of all their workers and are now providing equal benefits to their married and domestic partner employees. The State of California as an employer provides equal benefits to its employees. It is time that State contractors and vendors did the same.

Benefits for domestic partner employees is ultimately an issue of equity. This legislation is essential to assure equal compensation for all employees. California law recognizes domestic partners as a valid relationship. Employers should not use California tax dollars to discriminate by providing reduced benefits to domestic partners.

To address the concerns of religious based organizations, AB 17 includes a provision allowing employers to provide equal benefits without asking an employee's marital or domestic partnership status. Employers who have religious objections to domestic partnerships can "allow each employee to designate a legally domiciled member of the employee's household as being eligible for benefits."

AB 17 is sponsored by the California Alliance for Pride and Equality and will be eligible to be heard by a policy committee in January 2003.

To read the text of this legislation, go to <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/> and click on "Bill Information".

Old Globe Artistic Director Honored

San Diego has a real treasure in the Old Globe, thanks largely to the extraordinary work of its Artistic Director, Jack O'Brien. He was honored in New York last week with the acclaimed "Mr. Abbott" Award for 2002 in recognition of his extraordinary lifetime achievement in the American Theater. For that reason, and for the art and beauty Jack O'Brien has brought to San Diego theatergoers, I honored him with a Resolution from the California State Assembly

O'Brien is a four-time Tony Award-nominated director, who has captivated Old Globe audiences for more than two decades with more than 60 provocative productions, including world premiers, musicals, adaptations and classical work. He has delighted theatergoers in San Diego, New York and Europe, with such productions as *The Full Monty*, *Porgy and Bess* and *Othello*. O'Brien's annual Old Globe staging of *Hoe the Grinch Stole Christmas!* has given birth to a new generation of young theatergoers in San Diego.

If you'd like to see some of O'Brien's brilliant work on stage, go to the Old Globe's website at <http://www.oldglobe.org/>.

Holiday Events in San Diego

Don't let San Diego's mild weather keep you from getting in the holiday spirit. Our sunny city offers many holiday

events throughout December. Here is listing of just some of our events.

Festival of Lights at the Wild Animal Park - Dec. 6-23, 26-30. 4-9 p.m. Information: (760) 796-5621.

Jungle Bells - The Zoo's annual winter celebration will make you happy as a polar bear in snow. Dec. 14-24, 2002 Daily 9 am-4 pm. Information: (619) 231-1515.

A Kwanzaa Celebration - The WorldBeat Center celebrates diversity with Kwanzaa special events. Dec. 6-7 and Dec. 27 Fri-Sat, Dec. 6-7: 5-10 p.m. Fri, Dec. 27: 6 p.m. Information: (619) 230-1190.

Spreckels Organ Pavilion's annual Christmas sing-along - Get into the holiday spirit with a good old fashioned sing-along accompanied by the finest organ in Balboa Park. 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22 Information: (619) 702-8138.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas! - You're a mean one, Mr. Grinch, but the Old Globe just loves you. The theater continues its holiday tradition with the popular story by Dr. Seuss. Nov. 17-Dec. 31 Tue-Fri 7:30 p.m. Sat-Sun 2 and 7:30 p.m. Information: (619) 239-2255.

For more information, go to the Events Listing of the City of San Diego's website, available at: <http://interapp.sannet.gov/lnetLoader?class=org.sddpc.secal.pubpage.WeekList>

